

**ABSTRACT**

Optional features of a computer system are enabled securely. Examples of the system features generally include number of processors, processor speed, memory size, and bus speed. A BIOS (Basic Input/Output System) of the system receives encrypted feature packets from a manufacturer of the system, decrypts, authenticates, and verifies the packets, and stores the decrypted packets in a secure, non-volatile storage. When the system is rebooted, the BIOS enables the optional system features as specified in the feature packets. Accordingly, the optional system features are enabled in a secure manner.

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